



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:
OSB2000-0110

June 16, 2000

Mr. Tom Mueller
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
ATTN: Ms. Olivia Romano
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-2255

Re: Biological Opinion on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Bank Stabilization Project (Corps Permit 99-591) Along the Columbia River at Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Enclosed is the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological opinion on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Bank Stabilization Project (permit number 99-591) as described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's request for formal consultation dated May 19, 2000. This opinion addresses Snake River sockeye salmon, Snake River fall chinook salmon, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River chinook salmon, Upper Columbia River spring chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Upper Columbia River steelhead, Middle Columbia River steelhead, Upper Willamette River steelhead, Columbia River chum salmon and Lower Columbia River steelhead and constitutes formal consultation for these listed species. The NMFS has determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of those listed species. An Incidental Take Statement included in the biological opinion describes reasonable and prudent measures to minimize the level of incidental take associated with the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Crome
for William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

